

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /018 W

-----103136 050722Z /16

P R 041533Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8914

INFO AEMBASSY BONN 7914

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STATE FOR SY/OPS/T, BONN FOR RSO FROM OIC/TRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MERCEDES ARMORING PROGRAM

REF(A) STATE 163874 (B) (TELCON JOMERUCK/PELCZYNSKI 8/3/77)

1. AS REQUESTED BY REFTEL, OIC/RTC CONTACTED COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AT AMCONGEN FRANKFURT ON 7/20/77. FRANKFURT ATTACHE REFERRED OIC/RTC TO ALLEN BARR, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, STUTTGART. ON 7/20/77 OIC/RTC TALKED TO BARR REQUESTING HIS ASSISTANCE IN GAINING DESIRED INFORMATION THROUGH STUTTGART MERCEDES FACTORY REPRESENTATIVES. ON 7/21/77 BARR CALLED RTC TO INFORM THAT PROPER MERCEDES REPRESENTATIVE WAS ON VACATION BUT THAT BARR WOULD CONTACT AND REQUEST INFORMATION UPON CONTACT'S RETURN. ON 7/27/77 BARR CALLED RTC TO INFORM THAT MERCEDES REP. WAS DUE TO RETURN THE NEXT DAY AND HE WOULD PROVIDE RTC WITH RESULTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. ON 8/4/77 OIC/RTC TELEPHONED BARR TO FIND OUT IF HE HAD GAINED REQUESTED INFORMATION. BARR STATED HE CONTACTED DR. BAUMHAUER WHO HAD INFORMED HIM MERCEDES IS PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN PROVIDING ARMORING OR "BULLET PROTECTION" ON A CUSTOMS BASIS TO ITS CUSTOMERS. BARR STATED HE WAS PROMISED A BROCHURE

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ON THE SUBJECT 8/4/77 WHICH HE WOULD FORWARD TO THE RTC.

3. AFTER SPEAKING TO BARR, OIC/RTC ATTEMPTED TO CALL DR. BAUMHAUER DIRECTLY. INSTEAD OIC TALKED TO MR. SADDLE WHO STATED THAT MERCEDES IS SUPPLYING A FULLY ARMORED MODEL 600 LIMOUSINE BUT THAT IT IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH U.S. SPECIFICATIONS. OIC STATED THAT MAIN INTEREST WAS AIMED AT MODIFYING STANDARD PRODUCED AUTO-

MOBILE. SADDLE STATED HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE AND REFERRED OIC TO MR. SCHMIDT.

4. CALL TO SCHMIDT ON 8/4/77 (EXPORT TECHNICAL ADVISOR - STUTTGART TEL. NO. 3022031) INDICATED FOLLOWING: "MERCEDES IS PROVIDING "BULLET PROTECTION" IN CERTAIN CARS WHICH PROVIDES CERTAIN PROTECTION AGAINST CERTAIN WEAPONS". HE STATED MERCEDES HAS PROVIDED PROTECTED PASSENGER VEHICLES TO MANY DIFFERENT FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DIGNATARIES. HE INDICATED THAT PROTECTION VARIES BASED AN THE CUSTOMER'S DESIRES BUT THAT THE WORK IS DONE BY MERCEDES AND NOT BY INDEPENDENT FIRMS. SCHMIDT STATED THAT ALL INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR "BULLET PROTECTION" PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE AND THAT GERMAN POLICE HAVE CONDUCTED TESTS TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF PROTECTION PROVIDED. HOWEVER, SCHMIDT SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM OVER THE TELEPHONE BUT WOULD WELCOME A PERSONAL VISIT TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS.

5. OIC/RTC RECOMMENDS SY/OPS/T DETERMINE WHO THEY WISH TO VISIT MERCEDES FACTORY IN STUTTGART (I.E. RSO BONN, OIC/RTC OR BOTH) AND ADVISE SO VISIT CAN BE ARRANGED. SCHMIDT REQUESTED A COUPLE OF DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. LEHMANN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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